

**Remarks**

Claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 are pending. Claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 stand rejected. Claims 1, 17, and 34 are amended in this Response. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46.

**After Final Response**

Under 37 CFR § 1.116, the Applicants may make amendments after a final rejection. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, and 34 to further clarify the invention in response to the comments by the Examiner on page 14 of the Office action. The amendments made by the Applicants bring back language from the claims as originally filed to further clarify the invention. Therefore, the Examiner has already had a chance to examine the material added by the Applicants in this Response. The Applicants ask the Examiner to enter the amendments because the amendments clarify the invention and the Examiner has had a chance to examine the material in the amendments.

**Objections**

The Examiner objected to the language on page 12, lines 16-17 stating "CLAIMS: We claim:". The Examiner cited 37 CFR § 1.77(b) which provides that one section of a patent application is the "claims" section. The application as pending has a claims section on a separate sheet of paper. The Applicants understand rule 1.77 to provide that the claims themselves should begin on a separate sheet. The heading of "Claims: We Claim" does not have to be on a separate sheet. The Examiner may not like the language the Applicants have included that precedes the claims section, but the language is proper under the statutes and rules. Because the Examiner failed to show how the current language is improper, the Applicants maintain the language as is and ask the Examiner to remove the objections.

**§ 102 Claim Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 17-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent number 6,169,738 (Sriram). The Applicants reviewed Sriram and submit that Sriram does not teach all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 17.

To first address the Examiner's comments on page 4 of the Office action, Sriram may teach silence suppression, but there is a difference between calculating a silence suppression gain before admitting a call, and performing silence suppression on an already admitted call. Sriram, and the comments by the Examiner, merely state that Sriram teaches silence suppression on already admitted calls. Claim 1 of the pending application is not attempting to patent the idea of silence suppression. Claim 1 is focused on calculating a silence suppression gain for an incoming call request so that a communication hub can determine whether or not to connect the call to the network (i.e., the communication hub does not want to overload a communication path to the network). Surely the Examiner can see the difference between calculating a silence suppression gain for an incoming call request for the purpose of call admission, and performing silence suppression on an admitted call. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner comment specifically on this issue so that the Examiner's position is clear.

To address the Examiner's comments on pages 13-14 of the Office action, the section in Sriram cited by the Examiner broadly describes a philosophy of call admission. This section in no way states that Sriram computes a silence suppression gain for an incoming call and the current calls before admitting a call (*see* claim 1). Sriram states the words "call admission", "call type", and "silence elimination", but the Examiner failed to show where Sriram teaches computing a silence suppression gain in response to an incoming call request where the silence suppression gain is based on the silence suppression realized for the incoming call and a number of currently active calls (*see* claim 1). The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clearly show where Sriram teaches determining a silence suppression gain based on the incoming call and a number of currently active calls before admitting the incoming call.

At the risk of being redundant, the Applicants will again traverse the § 102 rejection provided by the Examiner. Claim 1 describes a communication hub having:

*"a silence suppression block configured to compute a silence suppression gain in response to an incoming call request, wherein the silence suppression gain is based on the silence suppression realized for the incoming call and a number of currently active calls", and*

*"a call admission block configured to control access to a communication network based on the silence suppression gain for the incoming call request".*

section does not even mention call admission.

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over Sriram. The same arguments apply for independent claim 17, and the claims dependent on claims 1 and 17.

#### § 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 34-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Sriram. The Applicants submit that claims 34-46 are novel and non-obvious over Sriram for the same reasons presented for claims 1 and 17.

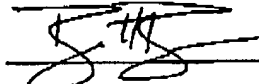
#### Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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#### **SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

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